

# Memorandum



Date: December 4, 2007

To: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and Members,  
Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess  
County Manager

Subject: Manager's memorandum regarding Resolution authorizing the County Mayor or designee to use Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department's forces to design and install water pipelines and fire hydrants in a certain area of Miami-Dade County to provide potable water to homes affected by a concentration of arsenic

Agenda Item No.  
12(B)4

There is an item on the November 13, 2007 Government Operations and Environment Committee agenda sponsored by Commissioner Gimenez which authorizes the County Mayor or his designee to use Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department's forces (MDWASD) to design and install water pipelines and fire hydrants in a certain area of Miami-Dade County to provide potable water to homes affected by a concentration of arsenic; and waives Resolution No. R-120-83. Provided in this memorandum are details.

In early 2007, the Florida Department of Health confirmed that the Department of Environment Resources Management's (DERM) discovery of arsenic concentrations were above the federal drinking water maximum contaminant limit in homes that use well water as their drinking source. The contaminated area is bounded by SW 72 Street to the North, SW 80 Street to the South, SW 84 Court to the West and SW 77 Court to the East. In order to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the residents in the contaminated area, the provision of potable water from the County's water system is imperative.

MDWASD forces will be designing and constructing the necessary water improvements and fire hydrants to make sure the installations are completed promptly as MDWASD has the ability, the expertise and the manpower to expedite this project successfully. After the installations are completed and the residents in the affected area are connected to the County's system, they will become customers of MDWASD and will be billed quarterly retail water service charges and fire hydrant fees.

Costs are estimated at approximately \$3,000,000. This project will be funded by the Building Better Communities General Obligation Bonds and Water and Sewer Fire Hydrant Capital Funds in the amounts of \$2.65 million and \$400,000, respectively.

Based on DERM's findings which corroborate the arsenic contamination to be a public health threat for residents using home drinking water wells in this area, it is in the best interest of the residents to be connected to the County's water system as quickly as possible by using MDWASD employees to perform the work. Therefore, it is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopt this resolution.

  
Assistant County Manager